

Doc  
98-04609



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 4 1998

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AUG 4 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ida L. Rodgers  
3850 N. Fanning C-2  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2250

Dear Ms. Rodgers:

Thank you for your letter expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). I cannot express strongly enough the importance of providing discounts for telecommunications and advanced telecommunications services for schools and libraries -- which the 1996 Act explicitly requires.

As you know, on May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommendation to provide discounts for telecommunications services for schools and libraries ranging from 20 to 90 percent, with economically disadvantaged schools and libraries receiving the greatest discounts. The Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommended rule that would give schools and libraries maximum flexibility to apply their universal service discount to whatever package of telecommunications services they believe will meet their needs most effectively and efficiently. In addition to all telecommunications services, discounts may be applied to Internet access and internal connections.

The annual cap for the schools and libraries program is \$2.25 billion. During the first half of 1998, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) was directed to collect \$625 million for the school and libraries mechanism. Schools and libraries should begin to receive discounts this summer.

On June 12, 1998, the Commission revised the funding year for the schools and libraries support mechanism and froze the amount of funding for schools and libraries at current rates. With regard to the schools and libraries support mechanism, the Commission directed USAC to collect and disperse no more than \$325 million per quarter for the third and fourth quarters of 1998 and the first and second quarters of 1999. Because the revised funding amounts will not fully satisfy the estimated demand by the schools and libraries that have submitted applications, the Commission revised the disbursement rules to ensure that the most disadvantaged schools and libraries get priority for support. The annual cap remains unchanged. Although the collection amounts have been revised, we will continue our commitment to provide support to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.

Approved  
by \_\_\_\_\_

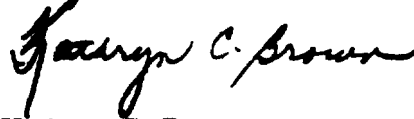
2

Ms. Ida L. Rodgers

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The Commission appreciates your interest in this important issue. Your letter will be entered into the public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket 96-45).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" being more prominent.

Kathryn C. Brown  
Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau

*Agency Release  
W3*

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Sat Jun 6 14:59:51 1998  
Date: Sat, 06 Jun 1998 14:59:06 -0400  
From: "Ida L. Rodgers" <ilr@dana.ucc.nau.edu>  
Subject: Inbound-White\_House\_WWW\_MAIL => FIRST\_LADY  
Apparently-to: first.lady@WhiteHouse.GOV  
To: first.lady@WhiteHouse.GOV  
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>  
Reply-to: "Ida L. Rodgers" <ilr@dana.ucc.nau.edu>  
Message-id: <199806061859.OAA13174@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: ts12-9.ppp.nau.edu[134.114.14.210]  
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.04 [en] (Win95; I)  
URL: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail\\_First\\_Lady.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_First_Lady.html)

~~-----[Sender Information]~~

PERSONAL-NAME: Ida L. Rodgers  
EMAIL-ADDRESS: ilr@dana.ucc.nau.edu  
ORGANIZATION:  
RELATIONSHIP:  
STREET-ADDRESS: 3850 N. Fanning C-2  
CITY: Flagstaff  
STATE-PROVINCE: AZ  
ZIP-CODE: 86004-2250  
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Offer neutral commentary, advice, or a suggestion  
TOPIC: Education  
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen  
SUBJECT: Please speak for us about the e-rate.

[Message]

Arizona's Senator McCain and others ask the FCC to recind or reduce the collection of modest fees from telephone customers. The e-rate support connection to the Internet for poor schools and libraries. Without the fee, the gap between the have and have nots will grow, leading to social disaster. Why do these politicians oppose this fee? The only answer I can think of is

that they are under immoral and possibly illegal obligation to the telecommunications industry. They should be investigated for possible illegal activities. The FCC acts on

Tuesday--please, please speak for those of us who do not have a national voice! Speak now & loud!